

Developmental Disabilities Council
Reading Cover Page

Date: January 19, 2006

Meeting: Membership Committee

Reading Number: Reading: 06-MC-01

Issue: Reducing Council Size

Included in Reading:

- Proposal for reducing size of Council

Action:

Review for Vote

Focus Question(s):

If there are any questions, please contact Cathy Townley 586-3567 or email cathyt@cted.wa.gov

PROPOSAL

To reduce the size of the Council from 33 to 24 people.

HOW:

1. Reduce the State agencies represented on the Council by three.

Only the agencies specified in the Federal DD Act would be represented on the Council. The three agencies who would no longer be represented on the Council would be CTED, DSHS/Mental Health Division and DSHS Children's Administration.

2. Reduce the citizen members by not filling positions of those who have completed two full 3-year terms, provided we are able to maintain the balances required by law.

A. THE FEDERAL LAW STATES:

Representation of individuals with developmental disabilities – not less than 60 percent of the membership shall consist of individuals who are:

1. Individuals with developmental disabilities
2. Parents or guardians of children with developmental disabilities or
3. Immediate relatives or guardians of adults with mentally impairing developmental disabilities who cannot advocate for themselves; and
4. Not employees of a State agency that receives funds or provides services under this subtitle, and who are not managing employees of any other entity that receives funds or provides services under this subtitle.

B. REPRESENTATION OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

In general each council shall include:

State entities that administer funds provided under Federal laws related to individuals with disabilities, including the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Older Americans Act, and titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act.

Centers of Excellence;

State Protection and Advocacy System

COUNCIL COMPOSITION:

1/3 shall be individuals with developmental disabilities, 1/3 shall be parents or guardians of children with developmental disabilities; immediate relatives or guardians of adults with developmental disabilities; and 1/3 shall be a combination of individuals described in paragraph A above.

We do have to keep in mind that we need to maintain the following balances:

The ratio of self-advocates/family members to agency members, ratio of self-advocates to family members, and ethnic and geographical diversity.